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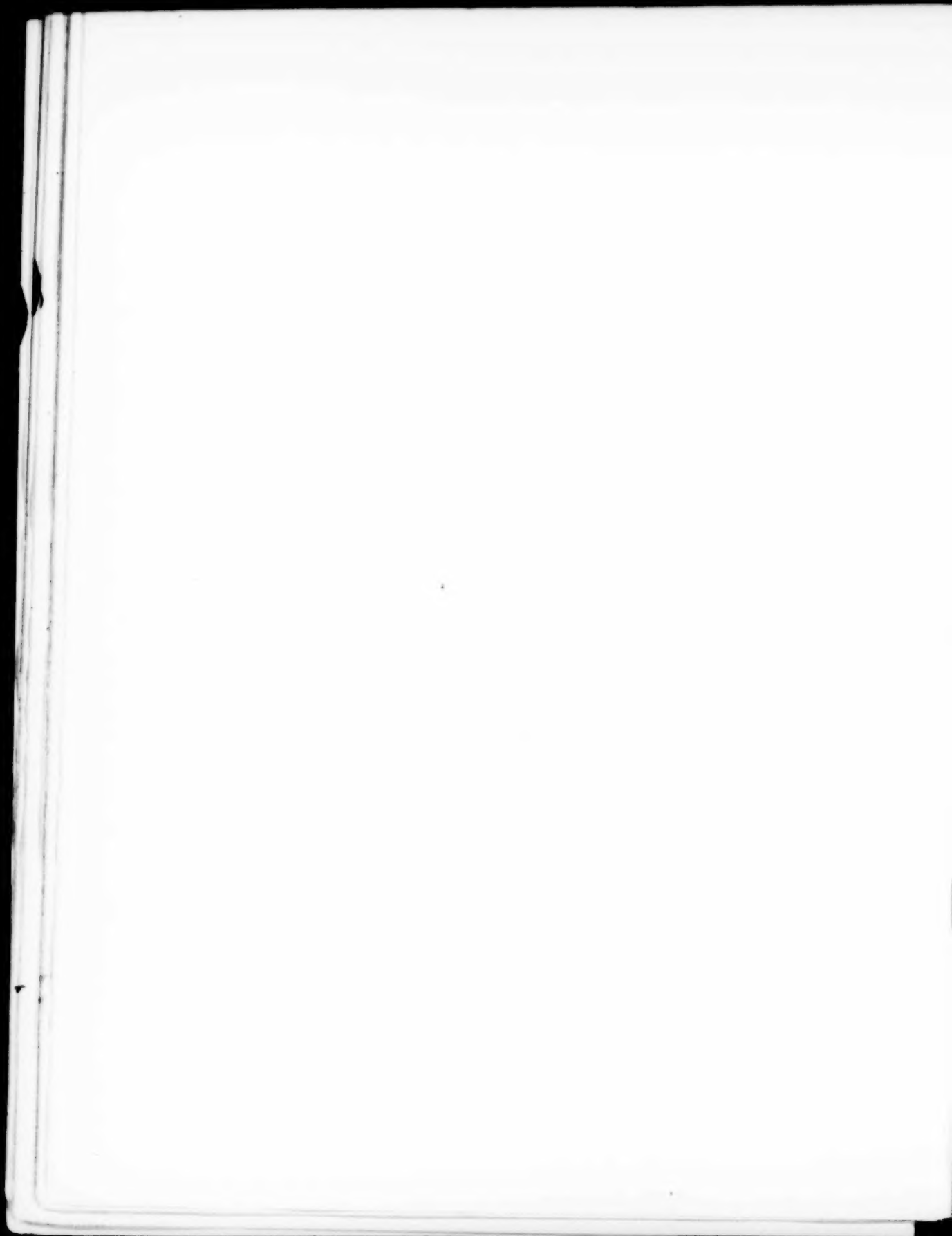
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# THE AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL.

*"We have no schools of bibliographical and bibliothecal training whose graduates can guide the formation of, and assume management within, the fast increasing libraries of our country; and the demand may perhaps never warrant their establishment; but every library with a fair experience can afford institutional instruction to another in its novitiate; and there have been no duties of my office to which I have given more hearty attention than those that have led to the granting of what we could from our experience to the representatives of other libraries, whether coming with inquiries fitting a collection as large as Cincinnati is to establish, or merely seeking such matters as concern the establishment of a village library."—JUSTIN WISSOR.*

## A WORD TO STARTERS OF LIBRARIES.

EVERY well-established librarian occasionally or even frequently receives letters of which the following is a fair sample:

"PUNKEYVILLE, July 10, 1876.

"DEAR SIR: The Honorable Hezekiah Jones, of our town, has donated [by the way, *given* has dropped out of the dictionary with such people] \$—— to found a library in this his native place, and we wish the library to reflect honor on him and credit on Punkeyville. Accordingly we would be obliged for any information you can give to enable us to establish this trust on a correct basis.

"Very respectfully,

"For the Committee,

"JOHN BROWN.

"P. S.—I hope you will send us your catalogues, your charter, and your rules."

Mr. Brown is very likely an estimable person, whom the benefactor has designated as suitable for the head of the trust. Perhaps he is a clergyman, and if you should ask him to tell you the way in which to run a church and take care of a parish, he would remind you that, if it were not for writing the next Sunday's sermon, he might find time to enlighten you. Perhaps he is a physician, beloved of the people, and trusted above all by the Honorable Mr. Jones; but if you asked him something

about the theory and practice of medicine, he would refer you to the journals of his profession or recommend a course of study in the schools. Perhaps Brown is the lawyer of the place who has the most business in the County Court, and if you should ask his professional opinion, he would charge you for it according to the time he takes for it, and according to the number of letters he has written you about it. Perhaps he is a teacher of the academy, which is another of Jones's benefactions, and he finds all the spare time he can get from teaching valuable to him in preparing an annotated text of Nepos, which through Jones's influence he hopes to get introduced into schools by the State Board of Education, and to profit thereby enough to lay aside a beginning of a competency for a rainy day.

And yet—

Brown the clergyman has written a letter without a firstly and so on to lastly in it, and evidently with the expectation that the librarian can answer in a sentence more points than he ever ventured to put into half a dozen sermons.

And yet—

Brown the physician has asked a diagnosis without giving you a symptom to go

by, without the slightest intimation of any of the conditions, in gift or community, to be met.

And yet—

Brown the lawyer has written a letter which will require another in return to learn what is really wanted, knowing very well that librarians never send bills with "letters" charged at so much.

And yet—

Brown the teacher thinks the librarian has no time outside of his prescribed duties that can profitably be spent in laying in his store for a day when he can labor no more.

I hope those who are laboring to advance the library interests of the country will understand that I am not aiming to abridge the useful advice which an experienced librarian can bestow outside of his own sphere, and can bestow gratuitously, but I would inculcate upon all having occasion to avail themselves of such experience, that it is the result of application that is never ceasing, and that it is only fair to such librarians that they should not be called upon to spend time on cases until the cases are well made up. There is no disposition on the part of librarians to shun a general duty which they owe as citizens, if the propositions which are made to them are put with understanding and in such a way as to show that the seekers have fairly tried to help themselves.

Now, how can this be done? In the first place, procure what is in print—such volumes, for instance, as the new publication of the Educational Bureau at Washington. Send to any library which is a fit exemplar, and ask for its rules and reports, and do not forget to enclose stamps for postage; but do not ask of a great library to have its catalogue sent till you have learned something of what you are asking for, a little later in your progress. I think you will never, or rarely, get a rebuff to such a request. Take time to study all these documents and when you have got a clear

idea of what a library is, and how it should be administered, consider closely the fitness of this or that library to this or that kind of community, or to these or those conditions under which you are to work. Do not think you have no time for this. If you have not, resign your trust to some one who has, and who has a correct appreciation of the old adage that those who help themselves are soonest helped by others.

Now, after this, if you find there are still points on which you are in doubt, and questions which your study has not given you solutions of, you may bother an old librarian. You can now write him understandingly. He will discover it at once, and will be propitiated. Ask him your questions concisely, and come to your points at once. Avoid all irrelevant twaddle. The librarian will not understand Brown's quandary any better from learning that Jones married Brown's wife's sister, or that Jones's endowment is invested in the Punkeyville Mining Company, which pays good dividends. There is no busier man than the librarian of a large library; for his work is never done, and he is one of those people who find the more expected of them the more they do. There is one thing more. You must not be surprised to find some diversity of views among experts. They arise from different experiences and because of the varying conditions under which a library may be administered. The processes of one library can rarely be transplanted to another without desirable modifications, arising from some change of conditions. This accounts for a great deal of variance in the opinions of librarians; but it by no means follows that each of two systems under proper conditions may not be equally good, when both are understood and an equal familiarity has been acquired with each. Choose that which you naturally take to; run it, and do not decide that the other is not perfectly satisfactory



to him who chose that. Whichever you have chosen, study to improve it, and you will probably do so, in so far as it becomes fitted more closely to the individuality of yourself and your library.

JUSTIN WINSOR.

#### THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY OF PARIS.

**A**N energetic Frenchman, M. Girard, who had risen from poverty by great efforts, passing through eight different occupations in his upward course, at last reached a position of sufficient leisure and means to be able to attend the courses of the Conservatory of Arts and Trades. For eight years he educated himself at the lectures, and so highly did he esteem the privilege that he longed to extend it throughout France. He would have liked to establish a conservatory in every city. That of course was impossible: the professors could not leave Paris. But their books could, and his desire to spread among the class from which he had sprung the knowledge he had gained led him to feel strongly the importance of popular libraries, and to conceive the idea of a society entirely devoted to their formation and encouragement. Patriotic and enlightened men received the project cordially. Men like Boussingault, Jules Simon, Bonnechose, Charton, Chevalier, Aug. Cochin, Laboulaye, and others less known in this country, associated themselves with him, and the *Société Franklin pour la Propagation des Bibliothèques Populaires* was the result.

The task before them was not light. In France the rich are not apparently in the habit of giving for such objects very freely; the persons who were interested in these matters were not able to give much. In the dearth of material resources, the Society was forced to make all the greater efforts to do good by wise advice, by encouraging words, and, fortunately, by stimulating as much as possible the efforts of the people themselves in the various communes. Their success was remarkable. In the last four-

teen years libraries have been springing up in France as they have been in this country during the last twenty-five years, libraries not so large and not so much used as ours, but yet well selected and very useful.

The excellence of selection is due in great measure to the good arrangements of the Franklin Society. When libraries are sustained by subscriptions among the school children of one cent a month, it is important that every cent should be well spent; that nothing should be wasted on trash. Country school-teachers—for in France the teachers are often also the unpaid librarians—could not choose well from booksellers' catalogues, and, of course, could not afford a journey to Paris. The Society resolved to publish a catalogue which should contain every book that they could find of moderate price and suited to the reading of children and of workmen, and which should contain nothing that was immoral or unintelligible or dull.

A committee of twelve deliberated long over the books suggested. Their work was like that performed by the "Ladies' Commission" of Boston for the Unitarian Sunday-schools, who, it is said, approved one book in every hundred. The French committee could hardly have accepted more, for their list of 882 works (1867) is remarkably good. Selection is always difficult. The Franklin Commission found a double difficulty—in the persons for whom they were to choose, and in the material at their disposal. One Frenchman in three can not read at all, the second of the three reads with great difficulty. It was necessary, therefore, that the books should be of the simplest character. But unfortunately books of science

and of history suited to the uneducated are not more common in France than elsewhere; or perhaps I should say were not, for the publicity given to the want by the circulars of the Franklin Society has produced a supply, some of their own members—Macé, Charton, Laboulaye—being especially successful.

Of course there was at the outset plenty of fiction which the peasant could understand and would read if it were given him, but French fiction, as the various writers in the "Bulletin" of the Society repeatedly complain, is not generally of the kind which it is well for anybody to read. The writers prefer to analyze abnormal characters, to depict objectionable morals and the manners of the *demi monde*; they hold the mirror up only to the unpleasant part of nature. It must be pleasing to the English to see how unreservedly the French acknowledge the superiority of the English school, of Mrs. Gaskell, Mrs. Oliphant, Miss Yonge, Dickens, as well as of Mrs. Stowe and the authoress of "The Wide, Wide World." The Commission, however, succeeded in finding some story-books that they could recommend to their associate libraries, and procured others to be written. These were bought by the libraries with other books, and the natural result followed: they were borrowed, and "more useful" books left untouched. The letters and reports of librarians abstracted in the "Bulletin" are full of lamentations or apologies that the proportion of fiction read is so large. Hardly one fails to mention it; no question occupies their thoughts so much. One complains that the imagination is too much heated by this reading; another, that serious reading is crowded out; a third, that people waste their sympathy and admiration on unreal people when they should bestow it upon their country's history; another rejoices that the proportion of fiction read had fallen from  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$ . On the other hand, one writes that as men will read ro-

mances it is better that they should have good than bad ones, and that the Society has rendered great service by their list; a second says that it is too much to expect that men who have been working hard all day or all the week will devote themselves all at once to serious study, and thinks that a romance is much better than billiards; and a third insists strongly that among a population unaccustomed to books it is necessary to attract and amuse first, to teach afterwards: the essential thing is to give men the habit of reading.

In this connection it may be noted that one of the first things to strike an American in these letters is the small number of readers. One librarian, after his library had been open six months, reports an average of five to six readers a week. Yet he does not seem discouraged. Another circulates 125 volumes in nine months; another, 121 in a year. To improve this state of affairs, and get the peasants interested in books, several writers suggested public lectures, not in our sense, but meaning that some educated person who could read well should once or twice a week choose extracts from an interesting book, and as he read make such explanations as seemed necessary; he was not to finish, but to leave his hearers with their curiosity awakened and unsatisfied, and eager to take the book from the library. In several communes this or some similar experiment appears to have been tried with good success. In 1848 several courses of reading were established at Paris and kept up for a time, but political events became too absorbing and the audiences dwindled. In our own country there are not a few towns where something similar might advantageously be done. Why could not able librarians establish series of "talks" on books similar to those which have been lately given on subjects of trade and science in various young men's unions?

The Society did not confine themselves to circulating a catalogue of good books.



So far as their means extended, they gave books to nascent or struggling libraries, usually twenty volumes at a time, and the letters of thanks which such donations called forth are often touching, in the long-ing they evince on the part of the school-teachers for some means of satisfying the intellectual cravings of their brighter scholars. The Society also issued instructions for the formation of libraries, and succeeded in effecting an arrangement with several large publishing houses by which books were to be furnished for popular libraries at a very reduced rate. They also undertook to buy books, have them bound cheaply, and forward them to the libraries ordering them.

On April 1st, 1874 (I have not met with later statistics), there were in France 773

popular libraries, of which 265 had been created by municipalities and 508 were founded by private persons. Probably a majority of both kinds had received more or less impulse from the Franklin Society. The 708 libraries contained 838,032 volumes, and yet 14 departments had not a single volume in a people's library. Much as it had done, the Society was not yet out of work. The French intend that in time every commune shall have its library. It is to be hoped that America, where the ability to read is so much more widely spread, and where libraries are at once so much easier to found and so much more used, will not be backward in providing collections of books by which the education received in its public schools can be confirmed and continued.

CHARLES A. CUTLER.

#### THE PROFESSION.

THE time has at last come when a librarian may, without assumption, speak of his occupation as a profession. And, more, a better time has come—perhaps we should say is coming, for it still has many fields to conquer. The best librarians are no longer men of merely negative virtues. They are positive, aggressive characters, standing in the front rank of the educators of their communities, side by side with the preachers and the teachers. The people are more and more getting their incentives and ideas from the printed page. There are more readers and fewer listeners, and men who move and lead the world are using the press more and the platform less. It needs no argument to prove that reading matter can be distributed better and more cheaply through lending libraries than in any other way, and we shall assume, what few will presume to dispute, that the largest influence over the people is the printed page, and that this influence may be wielded

most surely and strongly through our libraries.

From the first, libraries have commanded great respect, and much has been written of their priceless worth; but the opinion has been largely prevalent that a librarian was a keeper only, and had done his full duty if he preserved the books from loss, and to a reasonable extent from the worms. There have been noble exceptions to this rule, but still it is a modern idea that librarians should do more than this. It is not now enough that the books are cared for properly, are well arranged, are never lost. It is not enough if the librarian can readily produce any book asked for. It is not enough that he can, when asked, give advice as to the best books in his collection on any given subject. All these things are indispensable, but all these are not enough for our ideal. He must see that his library contains, as far as possible, the best books on the best subjects, regard-

ing carefully the wants of his special community. Then, having the best books, he must create among his people, his pupils, a desire to read those books. He must put every facility in the way of readers, so that they shall be led on from good to better. He must teach them how, after studying their own wants, they may themselves select their reading wisely. Such a librarian will find enough who are ready to put themselves under his influence and direction, and, if competent and enthusiastic, he may soon largely shape the reading, and through it the thought, of his whole community.

The time is come when we are not astonished to find the ablest business talents engaged in the management of a public library. Not that we have less scholarship, but that we have more life. The passive has become active, and we look for a throng of people going in and out of library doors as in the markets and the stores. There was a time when libraries were opened only at intervals, and visitors came occasionally, as they come sometimes to a deserted castle or to a haunted house. Now many of our libraries are as accessible as our post-offices, and the number of new libraries founded has been so great that in an ordinary town we no longer ask, "Have you a library?" but "Where is your library?" as we might ask where is your school-house, or your post-office, or your church?

And so our leading educators have come to recognize the library as sharing with the school the education of the people. The most that the schools can hope to do for the masses more than the schools are doing for them in many sections, is to teach them to read intelligently, to get ideas readily from the printed page. It may seem a strong statement, but many children leave the schools without this ability. They can

repeat the words of the book, but this is simply pronunciation, as a beginner pronounces another language without getting any clear idea of the meaning. Could the schools really teach the masses to *read*, they would be doing a great work. The children of the lower classes have to commence work at a very early age, and it is impossible to keep them in the schools long enough to educate them to any degree. The school teaches them to read; the library must supply them with reading which shall serve to educate, and so it is that we are forced to divide popular education into two parts of almost equal importance and deserving equal attention: the free school and the free library.

It is in the interest of the modern library, and of those desiring to make its influence wider and greater, that this journal has been established. Its founders have an intense faith in the future of our libraries, and believe that if the best methods can be applied by the best librarians, the public may soon be brought to recognize our claim that the free library ranks with the free school. We hold that there is no work reaching farther in its influence and deserving more honor than the work which a competent and earnest librarian can do for his community.

The time *was* when a library was very like a museum, and a librarian was a mouser in musty books, and visitors looked with curious eyes at ancient tomes and manuscripts. The time *is* when a library is a school, and the librarian is in the highest sense a teacher, and the visitor is a reader among the books as a workman among his tools. Will any man deny to the high calling of such a librarianship the title of profession?

MELVIL DEWEY.

## THE GOVERNMENT LIBRARY REPORT.

ANY criticism on so comprehensive and exhaustive a treatment of the library question *in esse* and *in futuro* as that attempted in the forthcoming government volume would be as impossible to prepare as it would be here out of place to give if prepared. It is simply thought desirable to give a somewhat brief sketch of the topics treated, that the scope of the work and its importance to librarians may be the better understood. The volume, it should be noted, is not yet quite ready for distribution; the subjoined notice being prepared from partial advance sheets courteously offered for the purpose by the editors.

The report consists of two parts, each octavo: the first being the main work—the report proper; the second, a pamphlet containing Mr. Cutter's rules on cataloguing. The main work is illustrated with occasional cuts of some of the more notable old and new library buildings, and is made up of thirty-nine chapters and an introduction. Of these nearly one half describe and discuss the different special classes of libraries, the remainder considering those questions and points that enter into the management and usefulness, more or less, of all libraries. The peculiar as well as the strong point in the work is its number of authors: the editors having conceived the happy plan of obtaining from each of the more noted librarians or other bibliographers of the country a contribution on the subject his own bent or the peculiarity of his library had best fitted him to write about.

The introduction briefly sums up the contents of the report, and considers the questions of libraries as an educational force; the librarian as an educator; the relation of the general government to libraries, and the feasibility of attaching museums of art to public libraries. A translation of Dr. Rullman's tract advocating library science as a subject of special study in German

universities is given; there is a brief notice of the New York Library Convention in 1853, and attention is called to the Philadelphia conference announced for next month. The substance also of the prospectus of the JOURNAL is presented, and some mention of the public libraries in Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Japan is included.

In the first chapter Mr. Horace E. Scudder tells us of the public libraries in the United States one hundred years ago, showing what resources the country then contained for literary culture, and how the early proprietary and subscription associations—the germ of all modern mercantile and free libraries—originated. The start of the older college libraries is also here noted, though the description of their present condition is necessarily left to their more special article. With the second chapter the detailed accounts of the various kinds of libraries begin, the ground covered by them and their authors being better shown in the following table:

Ch. II. School and asylum libraries. By the Editors. (With sketches of principal collections and statistics.)

Ch. III. College libraries. By the Editors. (With sketches of principal collections and statistics.)

Ch. IV. Theological libraries. 1. By a librarian. 2. Catholic libraries. By Prof. J. S. Sumner, S.J. 3. Sketches of principal collections and statistics.

Ch. V. Law libraries. By S. B. Griswold. (With sketches of principal collections and statistics.)

Ch. VI. Medical libraries. By J. S. Billings, U.S.A. (With statistics of principal collections.)

Ch. VII. Scientific libraries. By Prof. Theo. Gill. (With statistical tables of libraries of scientific schools and associations.)

Ch. VIII. Libraries in prisons and reformatories. By the Editors. (With statistical table of prison libraries.)

Ch. X. Libraries of the general government. By the Editors. (With sketch of National Library by A. R. Spofford, and some special sketches by others.)

Ch. XII. State and Territorial libraries. By H. A. Homes. (With statistical table of such libraries.)

Ch. XIII. Historical societies. 1. History and condition. By H. A. Homes. 2. General considerations respecting historical research. By W. I. Fletcher. 3. Sketches of individual societies and statistics. By the Editors.

Ch. XIV. Young men's mercantile libraries. By F. B. Perkins. (With statistical tables.)

Ch. XV. Libraries of young men's Christian associations. By Cephas Brainerd. (With statistical table.)

Ch. XVII. Public libraries in manufacturing communities. By W. I. Fletcher.

In many of these chapters useful hints and suggestions on the formation and conduct of special libraries are to be found, and the best tools are pointed out. Thus in connection with scientific libraries Prof. Gill mentions the best special bibliography in each branch of science (as anatomy, chemistry, general mathematics, etc.), with comment upon its reliability and fulness; and similarly Gen. Billings, in writing of medical libraries, schedules the leading reference works in this study. The variety in authorship has the effect, happily, of varying the tone of each of these chapters, which is heightened by the different treatment necessitated by the peculiar difficulties and wants of each division. The feature of appending to most of the chapters the statistics of the respective departments, serves admirably to show their relative progress and accumulated wealth in literature, though it should be remembered that it does not always indicate the extent of special literatures, as the collecting of some may have been very imperfectly or recently undertaken. Thus, though medical literature dates back three or four hundred years, and is to be found scattered through some

two or three hundred thousand volumes, yet, save at Washington, it is represented by scarcely a large library in the country. In the closing chapter of the report these separate tables are gathered together, showing in one view the library extent of the United States.

In line with the tract of Dr. Rullman in the preface, Mr. F. B. Perkins and Mr. William Mathews urge the establishment in the larger colleges and universities of chairs on "books and reading," teaching not what to read, but how to read—the methodology of handling printed knowledge. A sketch of the history and *modus operandi* of the copyright law is contributed by the editors, and in the same chapter the provisions of the present law regulating the distribution of public documents, with an account of previous methods, are given; Prof. Gill describes the system of exchange in use at the Smithsonian Institution, with tables showing numbers of packages received and sent; and there is the text of the law respecting duties on books imported for public use. Mr. J. P. Quincy writes on free libraries, their relation to the State and the citizen, and their necessity as an educational influence in a republic; and Mr. W. I. Fletcher considers the use of public libraries by the young, arguing that there should be no restriction as to age, but that parents and teachers should have a voice in guiding their reading, and that there should be a steady influence exerted in encouragement of the use of the better classes of literature. The key-note of "how to make town libraries successful," according to Mr. Perkins, is "businesslike management;" for, like any charitable and benevolent society, he adds, neither faith nor works (taken religiously) "will keep it going very long without accurate book-keeping, regular hours, and efficient business supervision." He gives a scheme in brief for the institution of such libraries, treating of the choice of books, organization and service, and mainte-

nance, setting it all forth with a clearness and practicalness that the merest tyro in library work can understand, yet embodying many suggestions that could be profitably adopted by those of longer standing. Mr. Winsor contributes the papers on reading on popular libraries, on library buildings, and on library memoranda, which, as the fruit of his experience in our largest library, should prove valuable data. As samples of recent arrangement of buildings, he describes the new Roxbury branch, whose book room (27 x 55 x 24), by a division into three stories, can shelve a hundred thousand volumes; the Boylston-street main building of the Boston Public, as an instance of the necessary rooms and stalls for the simultaneous workings of the departments of a large library; and, in connection with the architects Sturgis and Brigham, of Boston, he gives and explains the plans for a building of one million volumes' capacity. In his "library memoranda" the preservation of ephemera, which, though valueless now, become invaluable, the advisability of a librarian's having as technical a knowledge as possible of binding, the use of reference-books, and the compilation and consultation of library statistics, are briefly treated. Prof. H. S. Frieze shows what has already been done here in establishing art museums, their general influence and connection with public libraries, their mode of management, etc. The editors define free town libraries, describing their origin, with a summary of the progress already made in the several States; while W. C. Todd writes of the benefits and management of free reading-rooms, with partial sketches of some prominent examples. A chapter of some length and interest on college library administration, by Prof. O. H. Robinson, shows what are the principles of growth of such a collection, the best methods of classification, arrangement, cataloguing, and indexing, and the peculiar relations of the readers (the stu-

dents) to the governing power. The important paper on the organization and management of public libraries (Mr. Poole's contribution) deals with the preliminary steps in organizing, the selection of books, their purchase, the best arrangement of the necessary rooms, the shelving, the appointment of librarian, mode of cataloguing, and the other daily routine that makes the life of a library.

On the vital question of catalogue-making there is a variety of papers. In addition to his rules forming the supplementary part of the report, Mr. Cutter has an elaborate and exhaustive article that would seem to cover every point that could arise, did not the experience of every cataloguer show that knotty cases would come up not reducible to any rule. Under the three heads of "kind of catalogue," "form" (MS. or printed), and "tables," he defines the conflicting systems, shows their merits and demerits, and points out the circumstances under which one is preferable to another. The tables are a monument of painstaking elaboration, furnishing not only a complete classification of the different catalogue systems, but also their comparative usefulness and general adoption, the cost of printing, the necessity of printing (rather than their use in MS.), with an additional tabulation of the printed catalogues of public libraries in the United States (and their data), to the number of one thousand and ten. Of these twelve tables four are the compiled answers to circulars sent out by Mr. Cutter in 1875 to seventy-five libraries that had lately printed catalogues. The minuteness and thoroughness distinguishing all of Mr. Cutter's work has never had better illustration. The other papers on cataloguing are Mr. Dewey's on his decimal classification and subject index, a mnemonic system devised for cataloguing and indexing, but found applicable at the Amherst Library (where it is in successful use) for arranging and numbering on the shelves;



Mr. Noyes' description of the plan of his new catalogue of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library (defined by him as of the dictionary type, but with variations from the usual idea of that term) with facsimile examples of its pages; Mr. Schwartz' account of his catalogue of the New York Apprentices' Library, which is arranged in two parts, systematic and alphabetical—the latter embracing in one list entries under authors, popular (and non-significant) titles, and individual subjects, with cross-references; and Mr. Bailey's scheme of the St. Louis Public School Library list, which is a modification of the Baconian system in use in the Mercantile Library of that city.

Prof. O. H. Robinson offers a mode of indexing periodical and miscellaneous literature in use by himself, and in a further paper utters a few just words of complaint against enigmatic titles, suggesting that a library manual be prepared with an index to these in the leading subjects of study. Mr. Spofford writes of the binding and preservation of books, including the restoration of old books, and the mounting of maps and charts, and also calls attention to the importance of collecting complete files of periodical literature and society publications. Further papers by him give lists of the principal books of reference important to be used in libraries, and of the books and articles in periodicals on the subject of libraries. The final papers of the report are

Mr. Perkins', on the preparation of book indexes; one by the editors, on library reports and statistics, giving comparisons of statistics of foreign and American libraries, with tables of American public libraries in 1776, 1800, and 1876; and one by several contributors, containing sketches of the public libraries in ten principal cities. The last chapter (by the editors), alluded to before, sums up the statistics given partially by subject in the early chapters and has also a complete list of public libraries in the United States.

It is scarcely possible to give any clear idea of the exhaustive scope of Mr. Cutter's "Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue," forming Part II. of the report; they need the closest study to be fully understood and appreciated. The pamphlet numbers some eighty-nine closely-printed pages, and contains two hundred and five rules—a number which the notes and divisions under some special rules would largely increase. In addition to these rules proper, Mr. Cutter appends a list of the other catalogues necessary to a library's internal management (as the accession, duplicate, shelf, etc.), with brief descriptions of their method of use, and in a second appendix notes the works of reference he has found to be of constant use in cataloguing. His introduction calls attention to the need of a settled nomenclature, and some suggestions and examples are offered.

L. E. JONES.

#### PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

AS a general rule, the public documents have been a despised class of books. Especially has this been true in our smaller libraries, which have hardly yet learned to appreciate them. Till within a comparatively few years they were hardly preserved at all. In 1848 it was said of the Vermont State pub-

lications, "So little regard has been had to the preservation of our most important documents that no one of the public libraries of this State (not even our State library) contains a complete set of the published laws and journals of our legislature." At the present time the case is much improved, but yet

there is a chance for still greater advances. A few United States documents are regarded as valuable. Specialists have learned that they contain much which is of the utmost importance to them, and which they can obtain nowhere else. The reports of the Patent Office and of scientific men attached to the various exploring expeditions are perhaps the most prominent illustrations. Yet so many of these latter are hidden away in entirely unexpected places, sometimes in the report of one government officer and again in that of another, that without some clue to guide us through this labyrinth we are entirely lost.

The first great need, then, is some full index, brought up and kept up to date—an index of reports and also one of subjects treated of in the reports, the fuller the better. At present there is no such thing. We would not ignore the work which the Boston Public Library has done and given to the public. But its printed index is now a dozen years old, and though its written catalogue may be kept up, that is small consolation to others who have no access to it. There are also indices published by government of some portions of the United States documents—*e. g.*, the executive documents of the House of Representatives—but they are poorly compiled and of very little value. Of the Massachusetts documents there is no general index, and I presume none for those of the other States. Thus it is still true that we have no such catalogue as we need.

A further cause of the contempt with which public documents are regarded is the careless lavishness which they are scattered about the country. There seems to be no desire to send them to those who are interested in them and will use them, but they are cast indiscriminately abroad. As a result they are thrown into the paper-basket, or used for scrap-books, or something else equally important. This

waste is perhaps not so common now as in former years, but still it is sufficient to urge upon us some better disposal of them. The report of the Commissioner of Education for 1872 mentions about forty libraries having over 25,000 volumes apiece. This number must be quite largely increased now; perhaps, for lack of more definite information, we may call it one hundred. If, now, all the States of the Union would supply each of these hundred libraries with copies of their State publications, it might be of as great service in spreading information in regard to the States as the elaborate preparations of some of them at the Centennial Exhibition. It certainly would not be very expensive—the mere cost of paper, press-work, and binding. If, in addition, the United States Government would institute, or rather *extend*, its system of exchanges with foreign countries so as to supply these one hundred libraries in all parts of the land with a copy of the government publications of the principal nations of Europe, we would gain valuable books and make them reasonably accessible to large numbers of people. There must be many libraries abroad which would desire our publications in return, and this would give to those countries better and more reliable information concerning our own land, which they so often fail to appreciate.

This system of exchanges is, of course, nothing new. Its many advantages and great simplicity have been urged long since by M. Alexandre Vattemare, and it was, at least partially, carried into effect. I urge it here, at the beginning of our new enterprise, as something in which all librarians should be interested, hoping to stir up renewed discussion and *action* upon the subject. The two great needs of our libraries in regard to public documents are larger, fuller, and better indices and an improved system of exchange.

MELVIL DEWEY.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1876.

*Communications for the JOURNAL, and all inquiries concerning it, should be addressed to MELVIL DEWEY, P. O. Box 1667, Boston. Also library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances.*

*Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to F. LEVY, P. O. Box 4205, New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.*

*Exchanges and editors' copies should be addressed to AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL, 37 Park Row, New York.*

*It should be understood that the JOURNAL does not undertake to review books unless specially relating to library and bibliographical interests; but all books received will be carefully recorded by full title in accordance with established library rules, with a view to the ultimate publication of a detached bibliographical supplement for library slips.*

*Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of ten cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.*

The library profession, within which co-operation may be made exceptionally useful, has heretofore had little opportunity for mutual consultation and assistance. Hard worked and ill paid, most librarians could afford neither the time nor the money for the travel, correspondence, and study vitally necessary to the best fulfilment of their calling. Something could be done by comparing catalogues in odd hours and by chance conversation, and the few men who have earned for the American librarian the rank of organizer and teacher were ready enough to give what help they could to those who were aspiring enough to seek it. The conference of twenty years ago did something, but it was only an incident, and its work was not kept alive. It will prove, perhaps, not the least important item in the new activity of this centennial year, that it will have given so remarkable an impetus to library co-operation. The field had been prepared by the splendid development, as a characteristic American institution, of the Boston and other public libraries; by the new interest in cataloguing; by the fresh proof of the material importance of co-operative intellectual effort afforded by such work as that of the American Social Science Association and the National Bureau of Edu-

cation; and by a score of less salient but active elements. 1876 will be noted for the publication of the *magnum opus* of library literature, the government report; for the national—in fact international—Conference at Philadelphia, leading we may hope to a general organization of abiding usefulness; and, let us hope also, for the establishment of a journalistic medium of exchanging thought and experience that will earn for itself a permanent place.

THE plan of the AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL is intended to cover the entire field of library and bibliographical interests. But its conductors mean to make it a medium of communication in the proper sense, rather than to impress views which can be identified as those of the JOURNAL itself. Its associate editors, who, leading the profession, offer to their fellow-workers their hearty co-operation in this effort toward the general advancement of the calling, will commonly write over their own names or initials, and the editors understand that they will be at liberty to affix the names of all contributors, except in case of special requests to the contrary. This will give to each article its due weight and significance, while the JOURNAL as such confines itself to general suggestion or exposition. Under this plan, the leading pages will be devoted to papers on important library topics by those specially qualified to discuss them. Librarians and others are also invited to set forth their views, criticisms, and suggestions on any pertinent subject, freely but briefly, under "Communications." It is proposed ultimately to arrange for special correspondence from abroad. "Notes and Queries" should be of great practical value, and we trust our readers will do their best to furnish information sought; the department giving newly-found "Pseudonyms and Anonyms," under the charge of an associate editor foremost in that branch, should also be sustained by general co-operation. It is intended, in the department of "Bibliography" proper, to record the titles of any catalogue, bibliography, etc., published in this or other countries, with careful critical notices of the more important; this division may also include a list of the general new publications most desirable for libraries. The department of "General Notes" will cover all matters of library interest not specialized under departments: descriptions, statistics, foundations, donations, new catalogues, improvements, suggestions, personal



notes, and library facts of all sorts. The home and foreign journals will be carefully gleaned for this purpose, under a system of division among the associated editors, and the managing editor will use much of his time in personal visits to libraries on behalf of the readers of the JOURNAL; but each librarian must also feel that the JOURNAL is in a measure his own, and must do his part in its editing by sending every new fact as to his own library, or other library items that may otherwise escape attention. In addition to these departments, much usefulness and economy is expected from the semi-advertising departments, through which librarians, under special advantages to subscribers, may offer duplicates, call for books wanted, apply for assistants or for positions, etc. In a word, the AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL hopes to collate for the librarian every view or fact which may be of use or interest in his work, to the saving of time, money, and effort for him, and, as a final aim, to the advancement of his honorable profession.

THERE has been no library journal before because no one could see room for it. But, early this year, the determination among leading librarians in Boston that there ought to be such a journal met with the determination, at the office of the *Publishers' Weekly* in New York, that the experiment should be practically tried. It was thought that Boston, with its library facilities, offered the best opportunity for much of the editing, and New York, with an office versed in bibliographical publication and which had already shown a desire to cover the library field, the best position for publishing. As a rule, therefore, contributions and inquiries of any sort should be sent to the Boston office; subscriptions and advertisements to the publication office in New York. It is by no means certain that the JOURNAL can yet be made to cover expenses, but the experiment will be tried. It need not be an experiment, if each librarian will do his little part toward its success, for there are now, in this country alone, a sufficient number of libraries to which such a journal should save more than the five dollars it costs, to authorize the considerable outlay required. It is on this justification of saving that the AMERICAN LIBRARY JOURNAL rests its claim to support, even from the smaller libraries, to whose trustees or librarian every dollar is a drain. The cost could be made much less but for the well-known fact that of the theoretic

cal many who *ought* to support a new enterprise, so few do, wherefore it is urgently necessary that every librarian who recognizes the importance of the work should come at once to its support, to the full extent of the number of copies his library can afford and make use of. Each subscription may count in that very margin needed to ensure the continuance of the JOURNAL beyond the experimental year through which it will certainly be published. If the plans of the JOURNAL are carried out, it will prove a visitor that will be only less welcome than a donation, a library tool that will pay its cost a dozen times over, an inspiration to keep librarians up to the ideal of their profession—and is to no small degree in the hands of the very reader now reading this page whether these plans shall be fulfilled.

THE Committee's programme for the Philadelphia Conference is printed elsewhere. It will be seen that discussions on the more important library topics will be opened by papers from the leading librarians of the country. The history of the Conference is quickly told. Taking the hint from the meeting of 1853, a few library devotees in May last proposed a like gathering in connection with the great Exhibition. Letters of inquiry called out hearty responses from prominent librarians and the Commissioner of Education, and a preliminary call was issued. It was at first proposed to hold the gathering in August, but the replies to the call generally agreed upon October as the better date, Philadelphia as the place, and Messrs. Winsor, Poole, and Smith as the proper committee to take charge of the arrangements. Announcement was made through the press, and the Bureau of Education forwarded the call to the libraries of this country and to the leading librarians abroad, and the responses to the invitation have been so general as to surprise even the projectors of the Conference. There will be a large attendance from all parts of this country, and delegates are also expected from Europe. Mr. Yates, of Leeds, for instance, being granted a considerable leave of absence for the purpose. The Conference affords opportunity to visit the Exhibition in the most favorable month; and the special Centennial fares, with the reduced hotel terms procured by the Committee, make the trip comparatively inexpensive. There is no lack of inducement for librarians to attend; and as it should be the

most profitable three days of their library life, it is scarcely to be supposed that any Board will refuse to grant leave of absence. Not the least important outcome of this meeting should be the proposed national organization. It is intended to give up the second number of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* to a detailed report of the Conference.

WE regret to learn that the Special Report on the libraries of the United States, noticed elsewhere from advance sheets, on which the Bureau of Education has been so earnestly engaged for more than a year, is not likely, owing to unexpected delay in the printing office, to be in the hands of librarians generally until after the date of the Conference. The Committee, however, hope to procure copies for the use of the Conference. The book is one of such great importance that every person interested in our libraries will be glad to learn that the Bureau has wisely printed a large edition (10,000 copies), so that every library will be able to secure a copy. On the present plan of distribution, copies will be sent to the librarians of all libraries embraced in the general table, so far as their names are known. Libraries not reporting regular librarians (as academy, seminary, and school libraries) will also receive copies. It will not be practicable, as a rule, to furnish more than one copy of the Report to the several libraries, and the copy sent to the librarian will be regarded as the library's copy. Copies will also be sent to the leading libraries of other countries, and also to many individuals who are specially interested in its contents. It is not too much to say that this volume is the most valuable and practically useful work specifically devoted to libraries that has been published in any country. Its proper title is the *Library Cyclopædia*, and few cyclopædias have been so complete in their specialty or so authoritative by reason of the many experts who have contributed, each upon that topic upon which he, of all of his class, is best qualified to speak. To Gen. Eaton as the originator of the volume, and to Messrs. S. R. Warren and S. N. Clark, its painstaking editors, the respect and gratitude of foreign as well as American librarians will be cheerfully accorded; the influence of their work on the development of education in America must be widely productive of good.

IN connection with the *JOURNAL* it will be the province of the managing editor to collect

what the scientists would call a museum of comparative bibliography. To this each librarian is requested to forward at once two copies of each catalogue, class list, or bulletin of any kind; slips used in calling for books; charging-cards; postal-card notifications for delinquents; lists of books reserved, etc.; laws or regulations; forms of application for use; guarantee and reference blanks, and other printed or like appliances. These should be endorsed with all particulars—as cost (noting quantity), date of adoption, manner of using, and the suggestions of experience as to improvements—that will illustrate their practical usefulness. Of these one set will be arranged by libraries, so as to show the complete method of any given institution; the other, by articles, to show the comparative merits of each. This collection will be freely at the service of all who may visit the Boston office, and it is scarcely necessary to point out that to those planning or improving libraries a few hours here will save months of perplexing travel and correspondence. Of course the collection should be kept up to date by forwarding two copies of each new article as issued. It will also be used as the basis of a series of monographs on library appliances, which we hope to commence in an early number.

THE idea of a co-operative indexing of current serial literature, suggested by Prof. Robinson in the Library Report, and set forth practically elsewhere by Mr. Cutter, illustrates at once what can be done by mutual effort, such as it is a function of the *JOURNAL* to promote. A plan of the sort has been attempted by Mr. Winsor this very month. He called a meeting of his principal officers, and assigned to each a list of periodicals, for whose indexing he was to be responsible. As each periodical comes into the library, the designated person notes any articles of importance on slips uniformly used by all for the purpose. These slips, arranged together alphabetically, to a certain degree supplement Poole's Index to date. Doubtless Mr. Winsor would gladly make his system part of a more general one of wider scope, and it is to be hoped that others may be heard from, both with further suggestions and with offers of co-operation in providing such a supplement to the work of the *JOURNAL*.

A WELCOME correspondent presents suggestions as to another important matter, not directly

co-operative, but in which the co-operative influence of librarians would doubtless have great effect. If publishers could be induced to prepare, or have prepared, uniform title-slips of their new publications, a considerable point would be gained for the bookseller also as well as for the librarian. The suggestion has been made that the title-record might be put at the head of a page circular; that a little *résumé* of the book might occupy a second portion; and that an advertising list of new books or books on the same subject or by the same author might utilize the rest of the space. This would "pay" the publisher and be doubly useful to his customers. But the subject, in its details, is a most interesting one; it is at least opened for discussion, and we shall return to it again.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

## PUBLISHERS' SLIPS FOR LIBRARIANS AND OTHERS.

Boston, Sept. 6, 1876.

To the Editor of the *Library Journal*:

In the *Publishers' Weekly*, a short time ago, there appeared two or more short articles in reference to the supplying by publishers of slips containing the titles of new books with a synopsis of their contents, for the guidance of purchasers and the convenience of librarians. No definite plan was proposed, and the matter seems to have been dropped.

The following suggestions are offered with the hope that they may open the way to a discussion on this point, and lead to a practical result.

With each book published there should be sent out prepared slips containing the author's name and the title-page in full, carefully arranged as they are on the general "card catalogues" of our best libraries. The slips may be of good thin paper, and a trifle smaller in dimensions than the cards used in libraries. When a book thus catalogued is added to a library, the librarian can paste the slip upon one of his cards and place it at once in the "card catalogue." The subject or subjects treated of in the book may be written upon similar cards mounted with extra slips, on the margin above the slip, these latter cards to be placed in the "card index of subjects."

The fuller this Index of Subjects can be made in a library, upon the printed slips thus furnished, or by written cards, the more accessible

and useful will such library become to its consultants.

It may well be objected that publishers would be unable or unwilling to take the trouble to prepare these slips, and that uniformity could not be secured.

To settle these points is the object aimed at in the discussion proposed.

If the publishers are willing, the preparation of the slips might be assigned to the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* or the *Publishers' Weekly*, thereby securing the desired uniformity, copies of books or title-pages and contents being all sent to the "cataloguer."

These slips would be of use not only in large libraries, but in all. Many private individuals would thus be able to have catalogues of their libraries, which, arranged in a small drawer or drawers, would be found of great advantage, and might be indexed and extended *ad libitum*.

C. A. NELSON.

## THE LENDING OF BOOKS TO ONE ANOTHER BY LIBRARIES.

WORCESTER, FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
Sept. 4, 1876.

To the Editor of the *Library Journal*:

It would add greatly to the usefulness of our reference libraries if an agreement should be made to lend books to each other for short periods of time. It happens not unfrequently that some book is called for by a reader, or that in looking up the answer to a question a librarian has occasion to use a book which he finds in the catalogue of another library, but which does not belong to his own collection. The book, very likely, is one that can be replaced if lost. But it would take time to get it through ordinary channels; it might be necessary to send abroad for a copy or to wait to pick up one, if the book is scarce. In such a case it would be a great convenience to be able to borrow a book for a few days.

The Boston Public Library allows students in special branches of knowledge, when properly introduced, to take out books needed in the pursuit of their special investigations, even although they do not live in Boston.

Very likely it would occasionally allow to other libraries the use of books if asked to lend them. There seems to be no limit to its courtesy.

If libraries were to agree to help one another in this way, much good would result.

Perhaps those libraries which now allow books to be taken out by certain classes of non-residents would like to have applicants introduced through the libraries of the towns where they live, and instead of sending books to individuals, would prefer to send them to libraries to be delivered by them to applicants, and to be looked after as they look after their own books.

There would be a certain increase in the sense of safety in the consciousness that a library knows the peculiarities of its own readers better than they can be known to the officers of a distant institution.

I should think libraries would be willing to make themselves responsible for the value of borrowed books, and be willing to pay an amount of expressage that would make the transportation company liable for the loss in money should the books disappear in transit.

Is not some such plan as the one suggested practicable?

I am informed that a plan of this kind is in operation in Europe, and that in many places it is easy to get through the local library books belonging to libraries in distant countries. If I am correctly informed, valuable books and even manuscripts are thus sent from one library to another to a very considerable extent.

Reference libraries, it is true, all have exceptionally valuable books that they would not be willing to lend. All, too, have books that by the condition of gift can not be allowed outside of the building of the library which owns them. This condition is annexed to so many of the books in the reference department of the Worcester Library that I hesitate in urging the plan recommended. We have no printed catalogue, either, of the reference department.

But even if for these reasons the privilege desired could not be extended to the library under my charge, why should not such libraries as can assist each other whenever in their power do so?

I do not propose a definitely-formed plan for carrying out the recommendation contained in this letter, but only ask librarians and others to consider whether it would not be well to form one, and whether it is not feasible to make one.

Perhaps the matter is worthy the consideration of the Conference of Librarians at Philadelphia.

SAMUEL S. GREEN,  
*Librarian.*

#### THE CONFERENCE.

THE Conference of Librarians will assemble at the rooms of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia, Wednesday, Oct. 4th, 1876, at 10 o'clock, when an Address of Welcome will be delivered by John William Wallace, President of the Historical Society. After a permanent organization has been effected, provision will be made for continuing the sessions by adjournment for the day and evening, so as to allow members an opportunity to devote a part of each day to the Exhibition grounds. If the attendance is larger than the rooms will accommodate, an adjournment will be made to the Lecture Room of the Franklin Institute, which has been tendered for that purpose. On Wednesday afternoon a visit will also be made by the Conference as a body to the new Ridgway (Rush) Library building, and in the evening the Conference will be entertained socially at the Historical rooms by the librarians of Philadelphia. During the sessions papers will be read as introductory to discussions on different subjects; and the various topics of library economy as included in the special Report on Public Libraries, issued by the Commissioner of Education, will also be brought up for consideration. The following papers are already promised:

"A Universal Catalogue: its Necessity and Practicability." James G. Barnwell, Mercantile Library, Philadelphia.

"The Preservation of Pamphlets." Charles A. Cutter, Boston Athenæum.

"The Sizes of Printed Books." Charles Evans, Indianapolis Public Library.

"Personal Intercourse and Relations between Librarians and Readers in Popular Libraries." Samuel S. Green, Worcester Free Public Library.

"Bibliography as a Science." Reuben A. Guild, Librarian Brown University.

"The Modes of Construction appropriate to Public Libraries." S. F. Haven, American Antiquarian Society.

"Some Popular Objections to Public Libraries." William F. Poole, Chicago Public Library.

"A Co-operative Index for Public Libraries." Thomas H. Rogers, Warren Co. Library, Monmouth, Ill.

"Qualifications of a Librarian." Lloyd P. Smith, Philadelphia Library Company.

"Copyright in its Relations to Libraries and

Literature." A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress.

"Helps to Reading." Justin Winsor, Superintendent Boston Public Library.

In addition to the topics in the Government Report there will be discussions on the following, among other subjects:

The Preparation of Printed Titles for the Common Use of Libraries.

The Completion of Poole's Index to Periodical Literature.

The Systematic Exchange of Duplicates.

The Distribution of Public Documents, home and foreign.

The Permanent Organization of American Library Interests.

Library Co-operation.

The Preparation of a Hand-Book for Readers suitable for Distribution in Public Libraries.

Ideal vs. Working Libraries in our Universities.

The Committee expect to see a large gathering; and would renew the invitation to all librarians, both at home and abroad, and to all now or in the past in any way connected with libraries, and to all who may be interested in library economy or bibliographical studies.

JUSTIN WINSOR, Boston Public Library,

WM. F. POOLE, Chicago Public Library,

LLOYD P. SMITH, Philadelphia Library Co.,

*Committee.*

MELVIL DEWEY, *Secretary,*

13 Tremont Place, Boston.

[No attempt has been made to secure special railroad rates to the Conference, since all the railroads issue excursion tickets to the Centennial Exhibition at a *minimum* price. The Committee have, however, succeeded in making special terms at the hotels selected as headquarters, which are the Hotel Lafayette and La Pierre House, adjoining each other on Broad (14th) and Chestnut streets. The latter is the cheaper house. Those desiring accommodations at less than \$3 per day will find ample accommodation at private houses, to which the Centennial Lodging-House Agency will direct them. The rooms of the Historical Society, where the meetings will be held, are on Spruce street (two streets from Chestnut), about half a mile from the hotel headquarters, between Eighth and Ninth. Take the Chestnut street cars and get out at the corner of Ninth street. The cars running on Walnut street, or those on Market street, take passengers directly to the Centennial grounds from either the hotels named or the Historical Rooms; they return respectively by Chestnut street and by Market street. The time between is about 45 minutes. As it is pro-

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posed to hold the important meetings in the evening, and the others early in the morning, it is desirable during the Conference to lodge in the city rather than near the grounds, visiting the grounds in the afternoon. For this purpose, in reaching Philadelphia, visitors should go "direct to the city" instead of to the "Centennial depot." It will be found more convenient to reach the city the day before the Conference—Tuesday.]

LIBRARY CO. OF PHILADELPHIA,  
Fifth Street, below Chestnut,  
PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 9, 1876.

MY DEAR SIR: I am glad that Philadelphia has been selected as the place of meeting for the librarians of America, and I can assure you that the gentlemen who shall honor us by their presence will be heartily welcomed here. The directors of the Mercantile Library have passed a resolution throwing open their rooms to the members of the Convention, and I need not say that the Philadelphia and Loganian Libraries will extend a like hospitality.

In addition to the meetings in the morning it is proposed, on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 4th October, to visit in a body the new library building now in course of erection by the executor of the late Dr. James Rush. It occupies a square of ground on South Broad street, and will cost in all some \$500,000. The architect sends you a description of it.

The building is entirely fire-proof, and will be finished and ready for occupation in about a year from the present time. It will then, by the direction of the testator, be formally offered for the acceptance of the Library Company of Philadelphia, under the title of the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library.

On some one evening during the sitting of the Convention, it is proposed to have a reception at the Historical Society's rooms for social intercourse, and to enable the members to make acquaintances among the literary gentlemen of Philadelphia.

My friends John Jordan, Jr., Esq., of the Historical Society, and James G. Barnwell, Esq., of the Mercantile Library, desire me to say that they unite with me in giving a cordial welcome to the gentlemen of the Convention, and that they will do all in their power to make the meeting an agreeable one.

I remain, my dear Mr. Dewey,

Yours very truly,

LLOYD P. SMITH.

MR. MELVIL DEWEY,

*Sec. Library Conference Committee.*



## CENTENNIAL LIBRARY EXHIBITS.

THERE is not so much of a collection of library catalogues and bibliographic material at the Centennial Exhibition as one would naturally expect.

The most extensive exhibit is that to be found in the Government Building, where the Bureau of Education exhibits the large collection of catalogues and reports recently accumulated by it in the course of preparing its forthcoming work on public libraries in America. Noticeable among these are the nine volumes which compose the catalogue of the National Library.

In the same building the United States Patent Office displays a collection of five hundred well-bound volumes of its reports, and other publications. The Superintendent of Documents sends from Washington a full set of the publications during the Forty-third Congress. The other departments and bureaux exhibit sets of their reports.

In the Main Building the few library exhibits proper are confined chiefly to the displays of the State educational departments. In the Rhode Island exhibit there is a drawing of the new and beautiful Brown University library building, and in the Massachusetts exhibit a small collection of library catalogues and reports. Notable among these is the contribution from the Boston Public Library. The Worcester Public Library has prepared a special report for the Centennial. Williams and some other colleges have prepared special bibliographies of works by their professors. The exhibit of the American Book-Trade Association, at the south-eastern angle, will interest librarians, who are particularly concerned, in it, with Mr. J. R. Bartlett's catalogue, in 4 vols., of John Carter Brown's library, of which only fifty copies were printed, shown in a special case, and Mr. Sabin's *Bibliotheca Americana*; indirectly with the trade bibliographical publications of the *Publishers' Weekly* and the *American Bookseller*. Mr. Farley and Mr. Hebbard are in charge of most of the exhibits, and will open cases.

The special attention of librarians may be called to the very valuable displays made by the *Cercle de la Librairie*, and of the Messrs. Hachette & Co., in the French section of the Main Building. As a collection of choice authors and editions it is unsurpassed by any publishers' display in the whole exhibition,

while the different important specialties represented make the display a very fine French library. Thus the *Institut Géographique* exhibits all its geographical, cartographical, and relief publications, M. Gauthier-Villars a full line of works on mathematics, physics, chemistry, and the other practical sciences, etc. The paper, printing, illustrations, and binding are all excellent, and the trade catalogues are models of neatness and convenience. M. Ed. Terquem represents the *Cercle*.

In the German Book Pavilion there will be found, among the other publications, several series of the trade-bibliographical publications of Germany, where current bibliography approaches more nearly to a science than in any other country. These are included in the exhibits of the Börsenverein, Hinrichs, Weigel, and Schultz, and will be pointed out on request by Mr. A. Menzel, who has charge of the German exhibition.

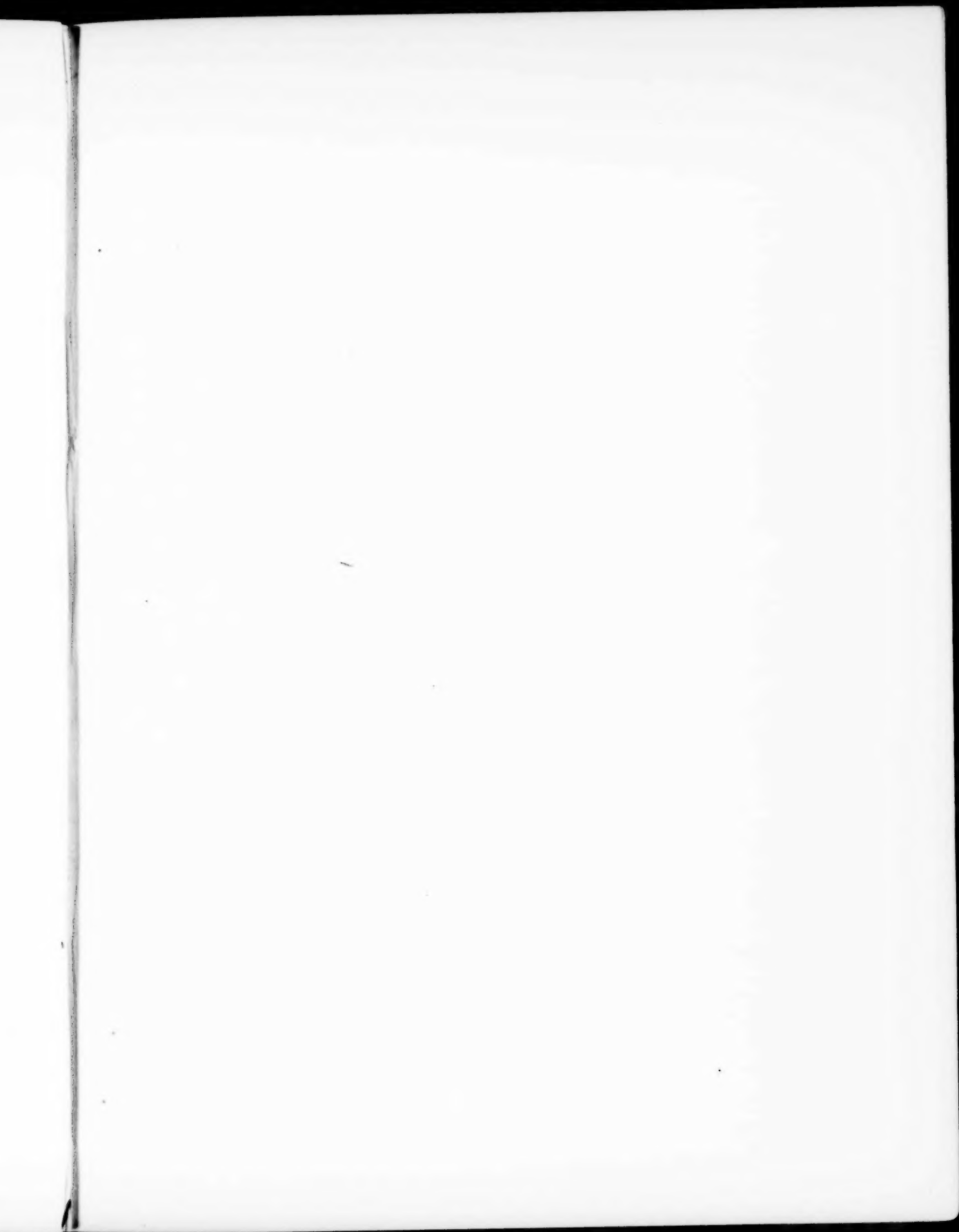
In the Netherland Pavilion there is included Brinckman's series of alphabetical title-lists of Dutch books from 1790 to 1862, and other bibliographical books of Nyhoff, Asher, and Muller. Mr. C. L. Brinkman, Jr., is the Dutch representative.

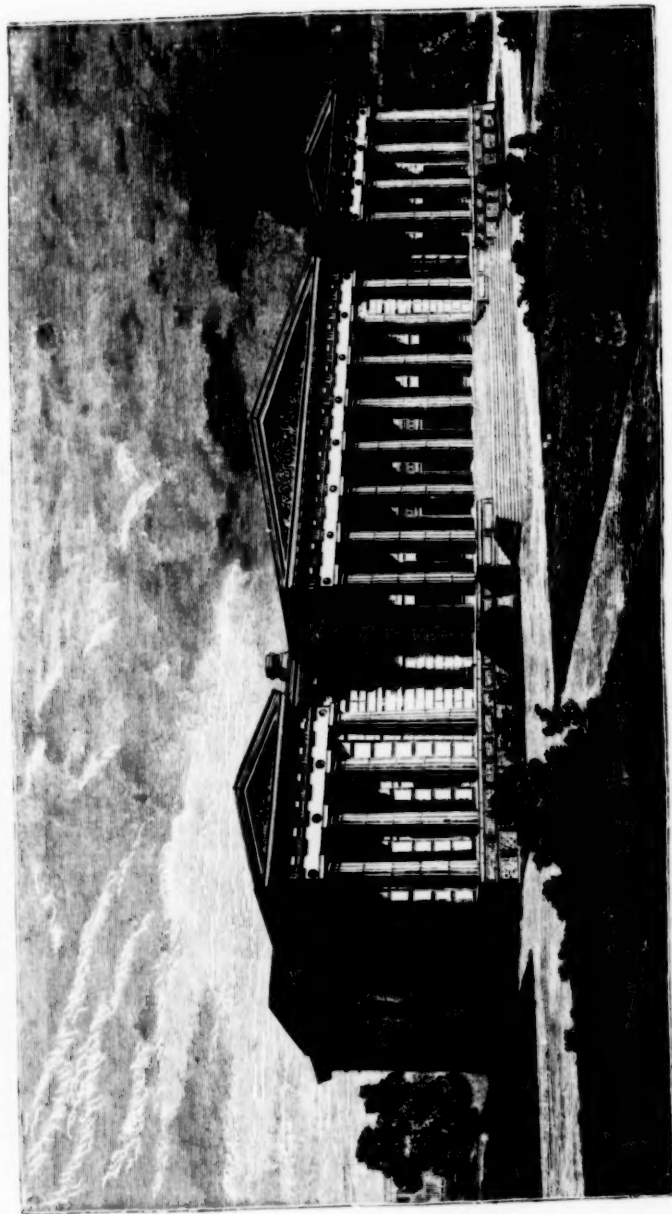
England, little represented in books, has nothing special in bibliography in her own exhibition proper. The Education Department of Ontario, however, exhibits a free public school library such as it supplies to the districts. The Colony of Victoria exhibits a handsomely bound set of the catalogues and reports of the great Melbourne Public Library.

In the Russian department librarians will be interested in the display of the "Pedagogic Museum," which distributes gratuitously an interesting catalogue describing, among other things, the "publications for the people" by the "Company of General Utility," which is doing in Russia something of the work of our public library system here.

In the Swedish school-building is a library of one thousand volumes suitable for the schools and parishes of that country. A catalogue of this may be procured in the school-house.

The Centennial number of the *Publishers' Weekly* describes exhibits of books in sixteen other countries besides those named, but most of these have only a general relation to library interests. It is stated that copies of this number will be furnished to all librarians who attend the Conference, and others who make a





THE NEW RIDGWAY LIBRARY BUILDING.—(See page 10.)  
[From Westcott's "Official Guide to Philadelphia," Porter & Coates.]



request for it. This includes not only descriptions, with plans and views, of these exhibits, but a general map of the Main Building, by means of which librarians will find their way to each part of the building where books are to be seen.

In the Women's Pavilion is a small collection of books written by the women of America.

The Pennsylvania Bible Society (auxiliary to the American) has a position near Horticultural Hall for the sale of Bibles, where are one or two curiosities.

C. WARREN.

#### THE RIDGWAY LIBRARY BUILDING.

THE governing principles in the arrangement of this building were, that special rooms be provided in which to arrange the books, as well as separate reading-rooms for the public, and that no books be obtained except over the librarian's desk, although a few books might be placed within reach of the public in the main hall and reading-rooms.

Generally, then, it may be said that the building consists of a centre, with north and south wings, and that the books are stored in the north wing. The main hall occupies the centre, and the reading-rooms are in the south wing.

The main hall is in the form of a cross, the western arm of which is occupied by the entrance and vestibule; the northern—next the books—by the librarian's department; the eastern, by a room for periodicals; and the southern, by the entrance to reading-rooms, and by the staircase to gallery of main hall and to the memorial and directors' rooms in the second floor of south wing.

The north wing measures 32 ft. 6 in. by 71 ft. inside, and in the centre is open to the ceiling, a height of 34 ft., having three tiers of galleries, 10 ft. wide, on which the books are arranged in the form of alcoves. A space of 25 ft. by 69 ft. between the north wing and centre is also available for the storage of books, and ultimately wall-cases may be put around the gallery of hall. The total capacity for books may be put at 400,000 volumes.

The south wing is occupied by a general reading-room, 32 ft. 6 in. by 71 ft., with a 20-ft. ceiling. It is lighted by three large windows on each of the west, south, and east sides, is provided with two open fireplaces, and has access at either end to retiring-rooms, lavatories, etc., for ladies and gentlemen.

In the angles of the central portion of the building not occupied by the main hall are a room for receiving and cataloguing books, a private room for the librarian, and two smaller reading or study rooms. These four rooms are each 22 ft. square and 14 ft. high, and are well lighted by two large windows each.

The length of the arms of the main hall is 85 ft. north and south, and 60 ft. east and west, and the width 35 ft. The height of the ceiling is 46 ft. There is a broad gallery, or, more correctly perhaps, a second floor, around the hall at a height of 15 ft. from the floor, from which rise 24 Ionic columns and pilasters, which carry the ceiling. Light is introduced by a clerestory arrangement over the interior cornice, by which means an abundant supply of light is obtained without leakage from rain or snow, to which the ordinary level skylights are so subject.

Externally, the west front on Broad street shows the arrangement of centre and wings, the former adorned with eight columns and the latter with four each. The back, or east front, is of similar general design, but without the columns, and the north and south wings show a tetrastyle arrangement of pilasters with pediment over.

The Grecian Doric was the style named for the building by the late Dr. Rush, and the following are the general dimensions: Diameter of column at base, 5 ft.; height, including capital, 30 ft.; intercolumniation, 12 ft. 3 in.; height of entablature, 10 ft. 6 in.; angles of pediments, 13 ft. The columns stand on a basement 8 ft. high, and the principal floor is one step above this. A broad flight of steps leads up to the entrance in the centre of the building.

The total length, north and south, is 220 ft.; east and west, over portico and basement, 112 ft.; and the height from ground to apex of central pediments, 60 ft.

There is a well-lighted basement under the whole building, with a ceiling 13 ft. high, to which there is direct entrance from the back of the building. It will be heated throughout by steam, supplemented by open fires in all the reading-rooms. It is built of Cape Ann and Quincy granite, with iron floors, ceiling, and roof, and may be said to be fire-proof, though the flooring and finish, for the sake of comfort, are of wood.

ADDISON HUTTON, *Architect*,  
215 South Fifth street, Philadelphia.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

## v. NOTICES.

*Specimen fasciculus of a catalogue of the National Medical Library*, under the direction of the Surgeon-General, United States Army, at Washington, D. C. [By John S. Billings, Assistant Surgeon, U.S.A.] Washington, Government Printing Office, 1876. Imp. 8°, pp. vii, 72. [1]

Nothing shows more clearly the importance which periodical publications are assuming, if not in literature, at least in science, than the attention which is paid to them by late cataloguers. Not to speak of the Royal Society's Index to Scientific Papers, we have in this country the San Francisco, Boston Athenæum, and Quincy catalogues, and the late annotated class lists of the Boston Public Library, all of which introduce considerable reference to periodicals; the catalogue now printing by Mr. Noyes, of the Brooklyn Mercantile Library, which is growing apparently to a size far beyond his expectation, owing to its fulness in these analytical references; and lastly the catalogue which Mr. Billings wants Congress to publish, which is largely made up of references to medical journals, and is, in fact, a sort of medical Poole's Index, although it contains much more thorough work than it was worth while to put into that index of unscientific magazines. Dr. Billings for some years has made unwearied and very successful efforts to complete the collection both of American and of foreign periodicals in the Surgeon-General's office. How wide his scope was is shown under "Acid, Carbolic," where we find titles of periodical articles in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, and Russian. Such a mass of material would have been of very little use without an index, and Dr. Billings, with even more than the usual rashness of librarians, (who are always too ready to undertake great works of this sort,) has begun, and, with the aid of the department clerks, *nearly completed*, an index which will fill five thousand pages, each one fourth larger than those of the Congressional Library Catalogue. It is greatly to be hoped by all librarians and all physicians that the funds for printing will be forthcoming, for nothing more fitted to facilitate medical study is likely to be produced in this country. It does not pretend to be, but it is, a medical bibliography—the most extensive yet made. Authors and subjects are arranged in a single

alphabet; subjects are put under their most specific name, though a sort of classification is produced by the juxtaposition of such headings as ACID, Acetic; ACID, Asparagic; ACID, Attractylic; ACID, Benzoic; ACID, Bromhydric, etc. Dr. Billings has issued a few copies of the first 64 pages in a fasciculus to show what he can do, and to elicit the opinions of medical men and the press. Both, so far as we know, have been favorable. C. A. C.

*Warren County Library and Reading-Room Association, Monmouth, Ill. Bulletin.* January, 1876. List of continued articles and stories in bound magazines. [Monmouth, 1876.] 8°, pp. 8. [2]

Here is a list, occupying only eight pages, of the continued articles in forty-four magazines. Every library must have felt the need of such a list. Some means ought to be devised by which all could join in the expense of making and printing it. Let some library which takes many periodicals, or let the LIBRARY JOURNAL, make such a list every three months, or oftener, including all the more important articles, whether continued or not; print as many copies as are subscribed for, and sell it at cost. Some libraries might take one, and some a thousand copies. Each library, in ordering its supply, would state what periodicals it wished included in the list. If there were any that could not be procured at the office of the JOURNAL, the library would be obliged to send a list of the articles in that periodical, which labor should be duly credited in its account. The references would be to titles of the periodicals, abbreviated according to a uniform plan. Blanks would be left in which each library would insert its own call-numbers; but any library which subscribed for a sufficient number of the list, and was willing to bear the additional expense, could have its own call-numbers inserted in its own edition. Such a list, issued quarterly or monthly, would be of very great service wherever periodicals are taken at all, both for posting in the reading-room and for distribution to the borrowers. Perhaps some better plan may be suggested; but that something may be undertaken soon, all libraries are requested to answer the following questions with as little delay as possible:

1. Will you join in bearing the expense of making and printing the proposed periodical list, the cost to be assessed according to the number of copies taken?

2. How many copies will you take?
3. What periodicals do you wish to include in the list?
4. Do you prefer a semi-annual, or quarterly, or monthly issue?
5. Can you propose any better plan of securing the same result, or suggest any improvements in the present plan?

C. A. C.

*Catalogue of books in the Roxbury Branch Library of the Boston Public Library*, including the collection of the Fellowes Athenæum, together with notes for readers under subject-references. Second edition. Boston: Issued by the Library. 1876. 8°, pp. 292. [3]

The system of cataloguing laid down by Mr. Jewett, and exemplified in the earlier catalogues of the Public Library of Boston, has developed in the hands of his successor, Mr. Winsor, to a fulness which makes the later additions to the bibliography of that institution not so much catalogues—with what that word implies—as manuals of what to read and how to read. With other libraries it must remain a question as to how far the system of annotation followed, by them may be carried without swelling the bulk of the volume and increasing what is always a serious consideration with small libraries—the expense of printing. But that consideration, fortunately, is not a serious one with the Public Library of Boston, and the various excellent catalogues lately published, as well as those now in course of publication, attest the value their publications have been to other libraries in forming a correct system of cataloguing for popular use. The volume mentioned above is their first attempt to illustrate in a general catalogue the system followed in their later class-lists, and is lacking in but one of the instructive features of the volume devoted to history, biography, and travel—the biographical details, in connection with the names of persons, of what they were and when they lived. How fully the contents of the Roxbury Branch Library have been indexed may be inferred from the fact that it has taken nearly three hundred pages to catalogue about eleven thousand volumes. How accurately the work has been done will only be known to those who have felt the force of the remark of Henry Stevens, that "If you are troubled with a pride of accuracy, and would have it completely taken out of you, print a catalogue." Briefly, the catalogue of the Roxbury Branch is accurate in its printing, full in

its bibliographical details, and supplemented by a system of notes and explanations which take from it its merely local interest, and give it a general interest everywhere amongst reading people.

C. E.

*Apprentices' Library, New York. Bulletin. No. 1. September, 1876. Books added from March 8th, 1874, to September, 1876. [New York, 1876.] 8°, pp. 21. [4]*

Mr. Schwartz has apparently abandoned the "combined" system which he advocated and used in the catalogue of 1874, and arranges the titles now by classes in alphabetical order, with a sub-alphabetical arrangement of sub-classes. There is an alphabetical index of these sub-classes, but no index of authors. The catalogue is well executed and well printed, with black type for the class headings and authors' names, and with no more errata than are unavoidable in catalogue work.

C. A. C.

## 2. RECORD OF RECENT ISSUES.

*The following list, compiled from various sources, is merely given to represent a department which it is to be hoped will shortly make its record from actual collation. In default of this collation, the designation of size, pages, etc., is given in the vernacular form.*

*Catalogue of Sanskrit and Pali books in the British Museum.* By Dr. Ernst Haas. Printed by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum. London, Trübner & Co. 4°, pp. 200. 21 s. [5]

*A Classified catalogue of school, college, classical, technical, and general educational works in use in the United Kingdom and its dependencies in 1876, so arranged as to show what works are available in any given branch of education.* London, Low. 8°, pp. 154. [6]

*Bibliothèque musicale du théâtre de l'Opéra.* Catalogue historique, chronologique, anecdotique, publié sous les auspices du ministère de l'instruction publique et des beaux-arts et rédigé par Théodore de Lajarte, bibliothécaire attaché aux archives de l'Opéra. Avec portr. gravés à l'eau-forte par Le Rat. [En 8 livr.] 1re livraison: Epoque de Sully. Paris, Lib. des bibliophiles. In-8°, 79 p., et portr. 5 fr. [7]

*La Bibliothèque nationale en 1875.* Rapport à M. le Ministre de l'instruction publique; par Léopold Delisle, administrateur général, directeur de la Bibliothèque nationale. Nogent-le-Rotrou, imp. Daupeley. In-8°, 52 p. [8]

- Les Bibliothèques anciennes et modernes de Lyon* ; par Léopold Niepce, conseiller à la cour de Lyon. Lyon, Georg. In-8°, 632 p. [9]
- Catalogue des livres de la Bibliothèque de Versailles relatifs à l'histoire de la ville de Versailles* ; par J. A. Le Roi. Versailles, imp. Aubert. In-8°, 205 p. [10]
- Catalogue général de la librairie française depuis 1840*, rédigé par Otto Lorenz, libraire. T. V. (T. 1<sup>er</sup> du Catalogue de 1866-1875, A-H.) 1<sup>er</sup> fascicule. A.-Coorhn. Paris, Lorenz. In-8°, à 2 col., 320 p. Prix des t. V et VI, 50 fr. [11]
- Fondation de cercles militaires avec salle de bibliothèque, de conférences, de correspondance épistolaire, et avec jeux de toute nature, autorisés par le Ministre de la guerre. Œuvre des Bibliothèques des sous-officiers et des soldats.* Paris, Hachette et Cie. In-8°, 43 p. [12]
- Allgemeine Bibliographie der bautechnischen und kunstgewerblichen Wissenschaften.* Uebersicht der auf diesen Gebieten im deutschen und vaterländischen Buchhandel neu erschienenen Litteratur, verbunden mit Bau- und Kunstgewerbe Litteraturblatt. Herausg. von Karl Scholtze, unter Mitwirkung von Architekten und Ingenieuren aus Deutschland, Oesterreich, Schweiz, etc. 1. Jahrg. (1876.) Leipzig, Scholtze. [Monthly.] Gr. 8° 6 Nos., 4 Mk. [13]
- Baldamus' Medicin und Pharmacie.* 1871-1875. Die Erscheinungen der deutschen Literatur auf dem Gebiete der Medicin und Pharmacie. 1871-1875. Alphabetisch geordnet und mit einem Materien-Register versehen von Eduard Baldamus. (Fortsetzung der fünfjährigen Fachcataloge VI.) Leipzig, Hinrichs. 8°, xxix, 114 S. 3 Mk. [14]
- Bibliographia Dantea ab anno MDCCCLXV. inchoato accedente Conspectu Tabularum Divinam Comœdiam vel stilo vel calamo vel penicillo adhibitis illustrantium edidit Julius Petzholdt. Nova Editio supplemento aucta.* [Das Supplement auch unter folgendem Titel: Supplementum Bibliographiæ Dantiæ ab anno MDCCCLXV.] Dresdæ, Schoenfeld, gr. 8°, vi, 90 S. & 2 Bll. 32 S. 5 Mk., Suppl. sep. 2 Mk. [15]
- Katalog der Bibliothek der Deutschen Shakespeare-Gesellschaft zu Weimar.* [Unterzeichnet: Der Bibliothekar der Deutschen Shakespeare-Gesellschaft Dr. R. Köhler.] Druck der Reiter'schen Buchdruck. in Bernburg. [Weimar, Huschke in Comm.] Gr. 8°, 37 S. 1 Mk. [16]
- Katalog der Bibliothek der K. K. Akademie der Bildenden Künste.* Wien, Gerold's Sohn. Gr. 8°, xxii, 503 S. [17]
- Verzeichniss der Bücher, Landkarten, etc., welche vom Januar bis zum Juni 1876 neu erschienen oder neu aufgelegt worden sind, mit Angabe der Seitenzahl, der Verleger, der Preise, literarischen Nachweisungen und einer wissenschaftlichen Uebersicht.* Herausgegeben und verlegt von der J. C. Hinrichs'schen Buchhandlung in Leipzig. CLVI. Fortsetzung. 8°, xci, 412 S. 3 Mk. [18]
- Zweiter Nachtrag zu der vierten Auflage des Wegweiser's durch die Literatur der Deutschen.* Ein Handbuch für Laien. Herausgegeben von Dr. Karl Klüpfel, Universitäts-Bibliothekekar in Tübingen. [A. u. d. Tit.: Literarischer Wegweiser für gebildete Laien. Die Jahre von 1874-1876.] Leipzig, Klinkhardt. 8°, xix, 80 S. 2,40 Mk. [19]
- Bibliografia mineralogica, geologica e paleontologica della Toscana* ; per Antonio d'Achiardi. Pisa, fratelli Nistri. 8°, 58 p. L. 1.75. [20]
3. CONTENTS OF PERIODICALS.
- Neuer Anzeiger für Bibliographie und Bibliothekswissenschaft.* Herausgegeben von Dr. J. Petzholdt.—Jahrg. 1876. (Aug. and Sept.).—Das handschriftliche Wiener Stadtrechtsbuch der Olmützer k. k. Bibliothek. Von A. Müller in Olmütz.—Zum Schrift- und Bücherwesen des Mittelalters. Von Denselben.—Zur Italienischen Festlitteratur der Centenarien der J. 1875 u. 1876.—Ueber die ersten Ausgaben von Onosandros. Von H. Dittrich.—Aus den Olmützer Bibliotheksschätzen. Von J. Hausmann in Olmütz.—Die Buchhändler- und Buchdrucker-Signete der neueren Zeit.—Beiträge zu einer Bibliotheca Sancta.—Litteratur und Miscellen.—Allgemeine Bibliographie. [21]
- Le Bibliophile Belge.* Bulletin mensuel publié sous les auspices de la Société des Bibliophiles de Belgique. X. Année. (Nos. 11 and 12).—Notice de cinq fragments de manuscrits appartenant à la Bibliothèque Royale, par A. Scheler (end).—Dictionnaire des

- devises des hommes de lettres, imprimeurs, libraires, bibliophiles; des chambres de rhétorique, sociétés littéraires et dramatiques, par Ferd. Vander Haeghen (cont.).—Le Peintre Graveur des Pays-Bas au dix-neuvième siècle, par Hippert (cont.).—Analectes typographiques. Avec facsim.—Une édition nouvelle de l'imitation de Jésus-Christ, par Ad. D.—Nécrologie: Edwin Tross; Ambroise-Firmin Didot; F. J. N. Loumyer. [22]
- Revista de Archivos, Bibliothecas y Museos.*—(June 5.)—Sigilografía española (end).—El archivo del ministerio de Gobernacion.—Noticias.—Carta de Juan Antonio Morell.—Indice de los manuscritos de la biblioteca de S. Isidro (cont.).—Preguntas.—(June 20.)—El museo arqueologico nacional.—Noticias.—Antiguedades de Cartama; de Lastanosa. Indice de los manuscritos de S. Isidro.—Preguntas. [23]
4. REFERENCES.
- The Astor Library.*—*World*, July 27. [24]
- Bibliographie des œuvres de Leibniz.*—*Polybiblion*, Vol. XVII., p. 91. [25]
- Bibliographie raisonnée de l'Académie française.* Par M. René Kerviler.—*Polybiblion*, Vol. XVI., p. 166, 258, 458, and Vol. XVII., p. 65, 169. [26]
- The Bibliography of Edgar Poe.* By John N. Ingram.—*Athenæum*, July 29. [27]
- The Bibliography of Edgar Poe.* By Buxton Forman.—*Athenæum*, Aug. 5. [28]
- The Bibliography of printing.* An alphabetical list of books in all languages relating to the history and art of printing (typography, lithography, chalcography, etc., etc.), with historical, biographical, and critical notes. ("Caxton" to "Chapel Rules.")—*Printing Times and Lithographer*, Aug. 15. [Beg., Jan. 15, 1876.] [29]
- La Bibliothèque nationale en 1875.* Rapport au Ministre de l'instruction publique, des cultes et des beaux-arts sur l'administration de la Bibliothèque nationale pendant l'année 1875. [Reprint.]—*Bibliographie de la France*. Série II. Tom. XX. (Année 65.) *Chronique*, Nos. 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 30. [30]
- The By-ways of book-making.* By H. Sutherland Edwards.—*Macmillan*, Sept. [31]
- Country book clubs.* By Ethel C. Gale.—*Christian Union*, Aug. 16. [32]
- A Librarian's work.* By John Fiske.—*Atlantic Monthly*, Oct. [33]
- Libraries of the century.* By Frederick Saunders.—*Independent*, Aug. 17. [34]
- A Model village library at the Centennial.*—*Am. Bookseller*, Sept. 15. [35]
- The Private collections of England.* No. xxiv.—The library of York Minster. The Minster. St. Mary's Abbey. Streatlam Castle.—*Athenæum*, Sept. 9. [36]
- Regolamento organico delle biblioteche governative del Regno d'Italia.* [Reprint.]—*Petzholdt's Neuer Anzeiger*, 1876, Nos. 5 and 6. [37]
- Regolamento pel prestito dei libri nelle biblioteche governative del Regno d'Italia.* [Reprint.]—*Petzholdt's Neuer Anzeiger*, 1876, No. 7. [38]
- Ticknor's Memoirs.*—*Quarterly Review*, No. 283. [39]
- NOTES AND QUERIES
- [Queries are invited on any subject of bibliography or library economy on which decisive answers are not readily to be obtained, or as to which there is fair difference of opinion. They will be identified by consecutive numbers, which should be quoted in answers. When desirable, they will be replied to editorially, as asked; otherwise, or when opinions differ from that expressed, readers are requested to send in answers for the ensuing number of the JOURNAL.]
- OMISSION OF ARTICLE IN TITLES.—In beginning titles of books upon author cards, should the articles be omitted? Will the same rule apply in German and French titles? [1]
- DATE ON IMPRINTS.—In a series of volumes, when the date of the first is later than that of the succeeding ones, how should the imprint be written? [2]
- SPECIFYING EDITIONS.—When a series of volumes is of different editions, should they be specified? [3]
- CAPITALIZING TITLES OF RANK.—Should titles after an author's name, such as marquis, duke, and lord, begin with capitals? [4]
- DEFACING OF BOOKS.—What is the best plan to prevent or check a tendency to mark books with the date drawn, and similar things which deface, but not maliciously? [5]
- [To most of such questions as these, replies will be found in the respective articles in the



forthcoming government report; but, as respects different classes of catalogues, they are sufficiently at issue to be laid before our readers.—Eds.]

**KEEPING BOOKS UPRIGHT.**—What is the best appliance for keeping books upright on the shelves? In our library many volumes have been ruined by standing half tipped over so long that it is now impossible to get them warped back again. [6

[Two new substitutes for the wood block generally used to keep books upright on the shelves have been recently proposed.

The ordinary device has been a cube of white-wood about 15 cm. on an edge, sawed diagonally through. At Roxbury they have made a similar block of zinc filled with sand. At South Boston they have cast an iron block. The principle is the same in all: one flat face to rest against the side of the book, and another on the shelf at right angles to the first. The wood blocks cost from 10 to 15 cents each, and are very convenient, but not quite heavy enough for the octavos. The zinc blocks as made at Roxbury are smaller at the base (a decimeter square), and taller (18 cm.). The sand with which this is filled makes it the firmest of the three, and when carefully made there is no danger of its injuring the books. Its extra height is also a decided advantage. The cost is about 17 cents. The iron casting is simply two faces, 12 x 15 cm., joined at right angles, and having a brace joining the plates for added strength. As the iron casting seems to be most expensive, it would appear to be the least desirable of the three. At South Boston the casting costs 25 cents, though we suppose it might be afforded much lower if any quantity were ordered.

Have any of our friends better devices? If so, please advise us.—Eds.]

#### PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

*Rev. Peter Pennot*—Round, William M. F.  
*Faye Huntington*—Foster, Mrs. I. H.  
*Laurie Loring*—Pratt, L. Maria.  
*Kamba Thorpe*—Bellamy, Mrs. E. W.  
*Cuyler Pine*—Peck, Catherine S.  
*Christabel Goldsmith*—Smith, Fannie N.  
*Grace Mortimer*—Stuart, Miss M. B.  
*Marian Douglas*—Greene, Miss Annie D.  
*C. E. K.*—Davis, Mrs. Caroline E. K., formerly Miss Kelly.

—  
*All the Way Round*, London [1876]—by Addis Emmet Carr.

*Madge Graves*, Boston [cop. 1866]—by Miss Anna D. Ludlow.

*Stories of hospital and camp*, Philadelphia [1876]—by Mrs. Charlotte Elizabeth McKay.

JAMES L. WHITNEY.

#### GENERAL NOTES.

##### UNITED STATES.

**BOSTON ATHENÆUM.**—The second "Part" of the Catalogue (D-H) has just been published. The printers are at work on J, and expect to reach the middle of the work (the end of L) next March.—The paintings having been removed to the new Museum of Fine Arts, the upper story will now furnish additional room for the Library.

**NEW YORK MERCANTILE LIBRARY.**—Mr. Peoples, the librarian of the New York Mercantile Library, is pushing forward his new catalogue, the portion of fiction having already gone to press.

**THE NEW YORK APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.**—This library circulated last year 150,000 volumes to over 7400 readers. As Mr. Schwartz has only five assistants, two of them under sixteen, there has been little leisure among his library staff.

**CINCINNATI PUBLIC LIBRARY.**—Of the series of special catalogues of the library preparing by Mr. Vickers, that of the German fiction is already printed, while that of the English is now in press, and that of the French ready for the printer. Future lists of the series are promised in the departments of political economy, medicine, history, natural sciences, art, Americana, etc. The one now issued is an octavo of one hundred and six pages, the titles being printed in the German type.

**HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY.**—The duplicates received from the libraries of the late President James Walker, Charles Sumner, and Prof. Agassiz, with some others, have just been sold at auction, affording a welcome relief to the overcrowded shelves. Much additional room will be obtained, in the course of a couple of years, from the addition to Gore Hall, now building. In the meantime, owing to the destruction of the south wing, the Library presents an appearance of the utmost confusion, although a skilful arrangement of the books enables any one to be found with very little trouble. Some departments that are little used have been temporarily transferred to Boylston Hall.



**WELLESLEY COLLEGE LIBRARY.**—The library is one of the most beautiful and attractive features of that wonderfully attractive place, Wellesley College. Mr. Durant, the founder, had already distinguished himself as a book lover, in the Mount Holyoke Seminary Library at South Hadley. Those who have visited that institution will remember the fine bindings and choice editions so liberally donated by Mr. and Mrs. Durant. At Wellesley the same taste and munificence are again united, and it is quite enough to make a librarian envious of Miss Godfrey and Miss Pentecost to visit them among their books. The collection now numbers about 10,000 volumes. A catalogue of authors on the Boston Athenæum card plan and an accession book are already prepared, and the shelf lists are to be written up at once, so that the books can be made accessible to the more than 300 young ladies. The books are to be used in the library, where tables are provided for reading and study.

**BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE.**—The late Mr. John Carter Brown, for many years a member of the Board of Fellows, and a distinguished benefactor of the institution, gave to the corporation, some years since, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, to be on interest, and the accumulated amount to be eventually used in the erection of a fire-proof building for the library. At his death, in 1874, he bequeathed the additional sum of fifty thousand dollars, and also a valuable lot of land, for the same purpose. This lot, which is one hundred and twenty feet square, is on the corner of Prospect and Waterman streets, overlooking the lawn in front of the college buildings. The foundation walls of the new structure were laid in the fall of 1875. Early in the spring work was resumed, and now in a few weeks the roof, which is of wrought iron and slate, will be entirely covered. The elevation, of which there is a fine illustration at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, is of pressed brick with stone trimmings. The entrance porch is mainly of Nova Scotia olive stone, with alternations of blue slate stone in the arches. The interior is in plan a cross, the centre of which is a reading-room, thirty-five feet in diameter, having a height of sixty-eight feet, with two galleries running around it and extending into the different wings. It is lighted from above; the three wings, which are octagonal in form, are on the north, east,

and west sides, and are arranged for twenty-four alcoves, each alcove being provided with three tiers of bookcases, the whole furnishing accommodations for a library of one hundred and fifty thousand volumes. Each wing is lighted by thirteen windows. The front, or south, provides for the entrance hall, private reading-rooms, and special collections. It is expected that the building may be completed and ready for the transfer of books early in the coming summer.

R. A. G.

**BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.**—From the Boston Public Library we have received the new catalogue of its Roxbury branch (distinguished from the first edition by being liberally equipped with bibliographical notes as a guide to readers, in what we may now fortunately call the fashion), together with its own twenty-fourth annual report. During the year ending April 30, 1876, nearly a million volumes were called for by the patrons of the central library and its branches, or 25 per cent more than the year previous, while the greatest delivery of volumes on any day (\$035) showed an increase of 32 per cent in the same time. What is most gratifying is that the branches do not in the least diminish the circulation of the central library. The registered number of persons privileged to take out books is nearly 100,000 in a city of 342,000 inhabitants; and the Superintendent estimates that three-fourths of them avail themselves of their privilege, yet with only the loss last year of 100 volumes (one in ten thousand circulated). Also noteworthy is the steady increase of the library by gifts, in which way, apart from the product of trust-funds, more than a third of all its volumes have been acquired since its foundation. The catalogue work of the year, of the more serious kind, has been the printing of the Ticknor Catalogue, which is approaching the letter D, and the cataloguing of the Barton Collection, which has been carried through a third of the Shakesperiana. Scholars will be interested to know, too, that along with its own newspaper catalogue, the library has made a record of the invaluable files in the libraries of the Boston Athenæum and the Mass. Historical Society. The account of the autographic mode of preparing cards for the catalogue deserves the attention of all librarians.—*Nation*.

Continuing the excellent plan begun last January, the Boston Public Library will give in its January Bulletin "The Literature of 1777." These articles will be continued in

each January Bulletin, until the entire revolutionary period has been covered. The forthcoming Bulletin (October) will contain a continuation of the Notes on Early Explorations in America, the beginning of a paper on "The Literature of the History of Philosophy," and a continuation of the American Local History lists. The new edition of the Fiction Class List for the central library will contain bibliographical notes of a character similar to those in the history list and in the recent Roxbury Catalogue.

SHAKESPEARE QUARTOS.—Before the close of the year Mr. Winsor will commence printing in his admirable Monthly Reports a transcript of the British Museum cataloguing of their Shakespeare Quartos. This transcript will be accompanied by a careful collation and description of the copies, with annotations, and to this matter, prepared in London for Mr. Winsor, he will himself add notes, so that librarians will find the additional matter of much greater value than the original transcript from the Museum.

#### ENGLAND.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—The British Government has promised, in Parliament, an increase of salaries among the British Museum authorities—a measure whose justice is generally agreed upon by the English public.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The donations to the Cambridge University Library during the past year have been numerous and valuable. The annual report of the Syndicate, just issued, makes special reference to the Sanskrit and Tibetan MSS. presented by Professor Wright and his brother, Mr. D. Wright, among them being an important collection relating to Northern Buddhism, some portions of it as old as the ninth century, obtained in Nepaul, and a Samaritan Pentateuch of the tenth century. The first volume of Dr. Schiller-Szinessy's Catalogue of the Hebrew MSS. has been published.—*Academy*.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH LIBRARY.—A very commendable project has been started in East London, in the shape of a new circulating library, to be established for the benefit of the various Postal and Telegraph Officers, numbering about 500 men and boys, employed in the Eastern District. A committee has been formed of officers attached to the Eastern District Post Office to carry the matter out, and so place

within the reach of every youth and young man in the district sound literature of an improving character.

#### FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

NATIONAL LIBRARY.—The Bibliothèque Nationale has been put in possession of a voluminous correspondence between the late Emperor Napoleon the Third and his foster-sister, Madame Cornu. This correspondence began when the Emperor was only ten years old, and continued until within a few months of the Emperor's decease. One of the conditions upon which it now finds a place in the National Library is that it shall not be published earlier than the year 1885; and another, that it is to be edited by M. Renan, or, failing him, by M. Duruy.—*Athenæum*.

NUMISMATICS.—The preparation of an important work upon coin-collecting has been undertaken by the French Government, the work to cover the whole of Old French numismatics. The Minister of Public Instruction is in charge of the enterprise, and requests from the museums of France and of other countries, as well as from owners of private collections, any data they may possess touching French coins not comprised in the collections of the national library.

COINDRET.—The late Dr. J. Charles Coindret, of Geneva, a diligent collector of literary and historical rarities, has bequeathed nearly the whole of his treasures, including most of his fine library, to the city of Geneva. Foremost among these must be reckoned the Rousseau collections, including Latour's portrait of Rousseau, the original manuscript of the *Emile*, the correspondence between François Coindret and Rousseau, and a number of manuscripts of the latter.

LORENZ.—O. Lorenz, the compiler and publisher of the "Catalogue général de la librairie française depuis 1840," announces an annual catalogue of the French book trade, the first volume to include the publications of 1876, and to appear in January, 1877, price 7 f. 50 c.; also a catalogue of periodicals published or appearing in Paris in 1876, with a classified index, price 2 f. 50 c., to be ready in December. As to his "Catalogue général," he promises the issue of the second part of volume V. during October, the first part of volume VI. in March, 1877, and the last part in August, 1877. Volumes V. and VI. include the publications of

1866 to 1875. Volumes VII. and VIII., forming an alphabetical subject index to the first six volumes, he expects to finish before the end of 1878.

**JULES JANIN'S LIBRARY.**—It had been too hastily asserted that the valuable library of J. Janin, after the death of his widow, would become the property of the French Institute. It appears now that it will be sold, with the rest of the property of the late "prince des critiques," in October next. By the inventory recently made by a public notary, after the death of Madame Janin, the library consists of no less than 6248 volumes, most of them very valuable, and all of them bound with the careful supervision of a true bibliophile. Among them is one dedicated by Alexandre Dumas fils "Au juge suprême du talent."—*Athenæum*.

#### GERMANY.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.**—In Zarncke's *Literarisches Centralblatt* the Leipzig publishers, Eduard Avenarius and Richard Reissland, have a card announcing that they have undertaken the preparation of a general "bibliographical lexicon" of German literature, to cover the principal works in that language from the invention of printing to the present time, with especial reference to scientific publications. The general plan and management of the work have been decided upon, subject to such modifications as may be found necessary. The preparation of the various classes will be entrusted to competent specialists, but for its general management the aid of an experienced bibliographer is required, and they invite any desiring and qualified to undertake its conduct to put themselves into communication with them.

#### ITALY.

**THE VITTORIO EMANUELE LIBRARY.**—On the 14th of March the library "Vittorio Emanuele" was opened at Rome. It is intended to be the largest and the best in the kingdom—the British Museum of Italy. It was formed by the Minister of Public Instruction, Bonghi, from the union of fifty libraries, nearly all belonging to suppressed religious corporations, and consisting of 350,000 volumes. The "Bibliotheca Casanatense," containing 150,000 volumes, is joined with it by a bridge over the intervening street, so as to form one establishment. The Italians fondly imagine that the total of half a million volumes so obtained makes it the largest library in the world; but

they acknowledge with regret that most of the books coming from conventual libraries are, as might be expected, antiquated, and that the new library is lamentably deficient in new books.

**LUIGI MANZONI.**—The first volume of Luigi Manzoni's "Bibliografia statutaria e storica italiana" has just been issued (Bologna: Romagnoli). It is entitled "Bibliografia degli statuti, ordini e leggi dei municipii italiani" (parte prima), and the preface contains an explanation of the method adopted by the author in the compilation of his important and laborious work.—*Academy*.

**BERTOCCHI.**—The "Repertorio bibliografico delle opere stampate in Italia nel secolo XIX.," by D. Gius. Bertocchi, of which the first volume, devoted to history, has recently made its appearance, is calculated to be completed in ten volumes, 8vo. One of the most valuable features of the work are the elucidations and notes accompanying every title on record.

**THE PALERMO NATIONAL LIBRARY.**—Palermo has a fine National Library, the value of which is now disclosed by a "Catalogo Ragionato dei Libri di Prima Stampa esistenti nella Biblioteca Nazionale di Palermo," dal Sac. Antonio Pennino, Palermo, 1875, 8vo. The Introduction, from the pen of the principal librarian, Cav. Filippo Evola, tells us how the library was formed from books collected by the Fathers of the Oratory, and afterwards from the libraries left by the Jesuits when expelled from Sicily by the Bourbons in 1766, and again in 1860 by Garibaldi. Now the reading-room is open to the public every day during four hours. It is frequented yearly on an average by 10,000 readers. The number of printed books is about 110,000; there are besides 12,000 MSS. The library is rich in editions of the fifteenth century, in Aldine editions, and rare and curious books of the sixteenth and following centuries.

#### SWEDEN.

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